



*Fulbourn Hospital c1910*

54.70

Cambridge MENTAL HEALTH Chronicle

c.21.5

1908

Cambridgeshire Mental Welfare association founded 1908 as sub-committee of Charity Organisation Society, affiliated National Association of Mental Health; at time about 30 backward children attending elementary schools might be helped by special teaching & only 3% people discharged. Mental homes became self-supporting and three years later special class was begun by Education committee which grown into Lady Adrian School. In 1914 a small home for high grade feeble minded boys of school age, Littleton House, was transferred from Uxbridge to Girton after 1913 Mental Deficiency Bill County council set up statutory committee for care of mentally defective. Committees amalgamated with new Cambs Voluntary Association for care of mentally defective formed under auspices county council. 1921 medical superintendent Cambridgeshire Mental hospital asked for reports on home conditions of patients about to be discharged; this undertaken & name changed to Cambs Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare. In 1929 scheme for occupation & training centre opened. In 1958 Winston House half-way home opened. In 1961 sheltered workshop. Now lease home for women discharged mental home or hospital [14] 7.3

1911 05 12

There are a number of patients from Cambridgeshire in the Royal Eastern Counties' Institution for Idiots, Imbeciles and the Feeble-Minded at Colchester which started in 1859. Many patients were so crippled and helpless that they needed individual attention. The youngest was only four, the oldest 65 and they were of every grade. They reserved a number of beds for life cases who remained on payment of £10 per annum. It was not merely a home but a training school where every ray of intelligence was welcomed. Older girls worked in the kitchen or laundry in the morning and then at basket work, rug making, cane-seating or on the knitting machine. Nearly 100 lads were employed in the basket, brush, tailor's or carpenter's shop or in wood carving. 11 05 12b

1911 12 01

There is no doubt that lunacy is steadily increasing owing to the strenuousness of modern conditions. The asylums were never so full as they are today. We have a higher sense of duty to those bereft of reason than obtained fifty years ago and place under restraint cases that would formerly have been allowed to be at large. Fulbourn Asylum is overcrowded and there is no accommodation for further nurses which is especially important as the female side is understaffed. Unless there is some decrease in the number of patients additional expansion will be necessary 11 12 01c

1913 05 23

The Cambridge Association for the Feeble-minded was formed in 1908 to gather information on the number of feeble-minded children in schools. It was difficult to find vacancies in suitable homes for special cases. Some were so far from Cambridge that parents were unwilling to send their children to them and had made application for the care and protection they were unable to give their mentally-deficient youngsters. The Eastern Counties Institution is the only one taking unimprovable imbeciles and idiots from this district and was already full with a long waiting list. So there was no alternative but a pauper lunatic asylum or the Workhouse 13 05 23 p05 CIP

1914

Small home for high-grade feeble-minded boys of school age, Littleton House School transferred from Uxbridge to Cambridge [7.3]

## **1920**

1921

Medical superintendent Cambridgeshire Mental hospital asked for reports on home conditions of patients about to be discharged; this undertaken & name changed to Cambs Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare. [14]

1929

A small centre opened in Hope Street in 1929 under the old Voluntary Mental Welfare Association.. [14]

## **1930**

1933 02 28

The Medical Superintendent reported a rather severe epidemic of influenza at Fulbourn Mental Hospital involving a large number of inmates and staff. The epidemic spread to the female side and 105 patients were affected, 30 dying. None of the staff died. The epidemic lasted nearly a month. The Visitors expressed their appreciation to the staff for the extra and hard work during a very trying time. 33 02 28b

## **1940**

County Council took over responsibility for mental health in 1948

## **1950**

1956 03 03

A new villa to accommodate 40 female patients at Fulbourn Mental Hospital was opened by the Minister of Health. It will be used as a social therapy unit. He referred to the 'terribly cramped conditions', saying 'if you had 900 villagers living like this you would say the Government must take immediate steps to put in right. That is the problem at Fulbourn and is typical of what is happening all over the country' 56 03 03b & d

1958

Winston House, county's first half-way house aimed at getting psychiatric patients back into community, house belongs SOS Society, London-based charity set up 1929 to help homeless. After WWII Cambridge streets full of destitute youngsters from homes broken by wartime upheaval,

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Cambridge Rotary Club approached SOS for help & between them opened Winston House; in 1958 changed roles from helping youngsters to helping mentally ill [7.7]

1958 10 24

A new Occupation Centre for mentally handicapped children was opened at Coldham's Lane to provide daytime accommodation for the youngsters and give their parents a respite from their responsibilities. A small centre had opened in Hope Street in 1929 under the old Voluntary Mental Welfare Association. After the County Council took over responsibility in 1948 it moved to St Giles' parish rooms at Pound Hill. 58 10 24a & b

1959 03 23

Fulbourn and Riversfield Hospital Management Committee will 'not even think' of parting with their Riversfield Home for mentally defective children – in spite of the Ministry of Health suggesting that the 'reasonably small, accessible and fairly modern' home could be made into a useful hostel under changes proposed in the Mental Health Services. There was nowhere in the Eastern Region run so efficiently as this little place and until the Ministry can provide a place of similar comfort for these little ones, they will not think of parting with it. 59 03 23

***1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date***

1960s

Cambridge Society Mentally Handicapped Children open residential home at Milton [7.2]

***1960***

1960 06 24

Gone are the days of custodialism at Fulbourn Hospital; gone are the days of locked doors, padded rooms and ever-watchful gaolers. In their place has evolved an open hospital with a relaxed, homely atmosphere with no suggestion of the stigma which has at times been attached to it. Ten years ago there were few effective treatments for mental illnesses but now through various therapies and drugs even the most acute cases no longer need to be imprisoned under lock and key. In the Derby and Joan Club the elderly and most disturbed people spend the days playing dominoes, cards and board games while patients in the Ely Ward travel into Cambridge each morning to work 60 06 24a

1961 03 02

Winston House, an experiment in mental after-care in Brooklands Avenue, was opened in 1958 to provide temporary accommodation for those recovering from mental and nervous sickness and looking for permanent homes of their own. It can accommodate 23 people in a homely atmosphere and since January 1960 there has been a waiting list. Last year 48 people left the hostel, 26 of them having gained benefit from their stay. 61 03 02a

1962 02 23

The Cambridge Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, formed seven years ago, hopes to establish a residential home for those who are capable of an amount of self-help but need accommodation when their parents can no longer care for them. At present the only option is admission to a large hospital catering for all types of mental defect. The Society have purchased a large sombre-looking Victorian house in Milton which will be transformed with the careful use of colour to meet the best of modern standards. There will be a sheltered workshop for those capable of industrial work 62 02 23d

1965 04 07

Cambridgeshire Mental Welfare Association pioneers in their field – feature – 65 04 07b

1965 07 14

Pioneers who combat mental disorders: detailed feature article – 65 07 04 [14]

1966 05 05

Ida Darwin Hospital to admit first patients – 66 05 05

1966 12 09

Kent House hospital for psychiatric patients – feature – 66 12 09

## **1970**

1970 03 10

Fulbourn Hospital renovation – feature – 70 03 10

1975 11 01

Hester Adrian Centre to provide work facilities for both mentally & physically handicapped people opened [7.4]

1979 05 19

Forty per cent of Cambridge students are potential psychiatric cases, according to a report published by the Students' Union. There are a large number of reasons but whether Cambridge attracts people with a predisposition to mental illness or creates that illness once they arrive, the university has a responsibility to its students. The women in men's colleges are far more stressed than their counterparts in single-sex colleges and the male students about to be introduced into Girton, the oldest women's college, could end up suffering a corresponding weight of stress. The report is bound to spark off controversy among dons. 79 05 19

## **1980**

1981 07 21

new home for mentally handicapped, 128 Suez Road - Granta Housing Society, houses seven people [7.5]

1981 11 11

New hostel for mentally handicapped, 41 Russell St for 18, Cambridgeshire Social Services Department [7.6]

1983 05 19

Winston House in Cambridge, the country's first halfway house, has helped hundreds of people to get back into the community, some after more than 20 years in mental hospitals. Much of the impetus came from Dr David Clark, then psychiatric chief at Fulbourn Hospital. After the last war Cambridge streets were full of destitute youngsters, many from homes broken up in the wartime upheaval. Cambridge Rotary Club approached the SOS Society to see whether the help they were giving to London's bombed-out homeless could be extended and between them they opened Winston House. In 1958 it changed for helping youngsters to assisting the mentally ill 83 05 19 p9 88 05 20

1985 05 29

The Castle Project, which provides work experience for people who have mental health problems, has two workshops in Gwydir Street which are used for furniture repair, printing and painting. There are 20 craftworkers using the facilities and manufacturing toys, small furniture and plastic signs. Cambridge's Mayor, Jim Johnson, and local councillors inspected the facilities to see work which people in need of rehabilitation can do. The Project has been disappointed not to receive any Urban Aid grant but hope the city council could assist with finances. 85 05 29

1985 06 07

Hoint Cambridge Housing Society & Mencap & Cambridgeshire Social Services centre opens 82 Russell Street. Allows mentally handicapped independent life [7.8]

1989 02 15

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Douglas House, Cambridge's 'slum' psychiatric unit for disturbed teenagers with its crumbling décor, cell-like rooms and graffiti-covered walls is to be closed down. A new unit will be built on the corner of the Robinson Way entrance to Addenbrooke's Hospital with proper facilities specifically designed for their needs. 89 02 15a

1989 05 19

Winston House in Brooklands Avenue, established in 1959, is a psychiatric rehabilitation centre owned by the SOS charity. There are 20 residents staying on average a year with care and advice on hand all day. All are encouraged to lead a full life and to do something constructive outside the house. But privacy is a problem in the 13-bedroomed house and an appeal has been launched to provide more single rooms and larger kitchens. 89 05 19b